THE
MAX
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image™ COMICS PRESENTS

THE MAXX

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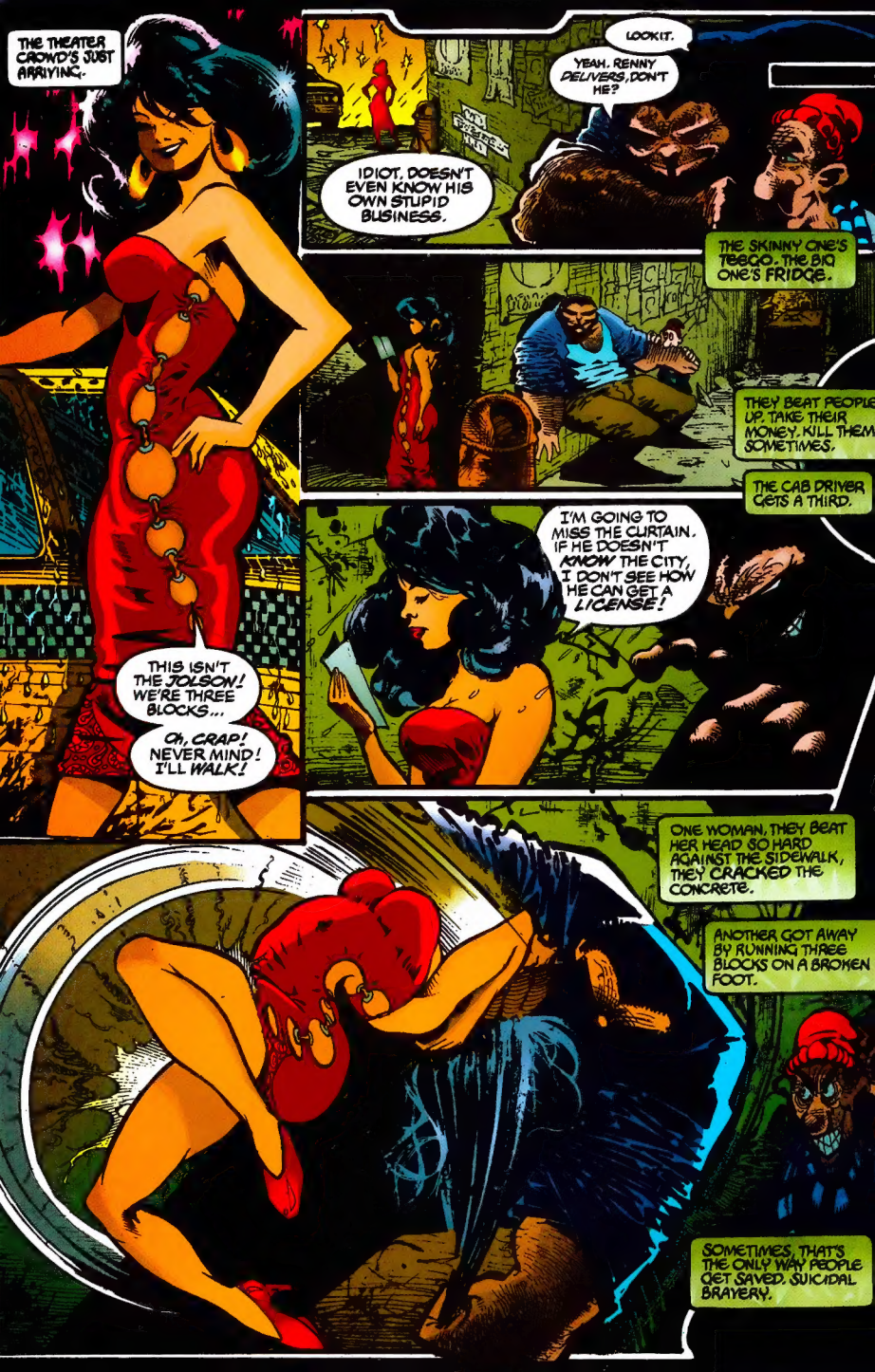
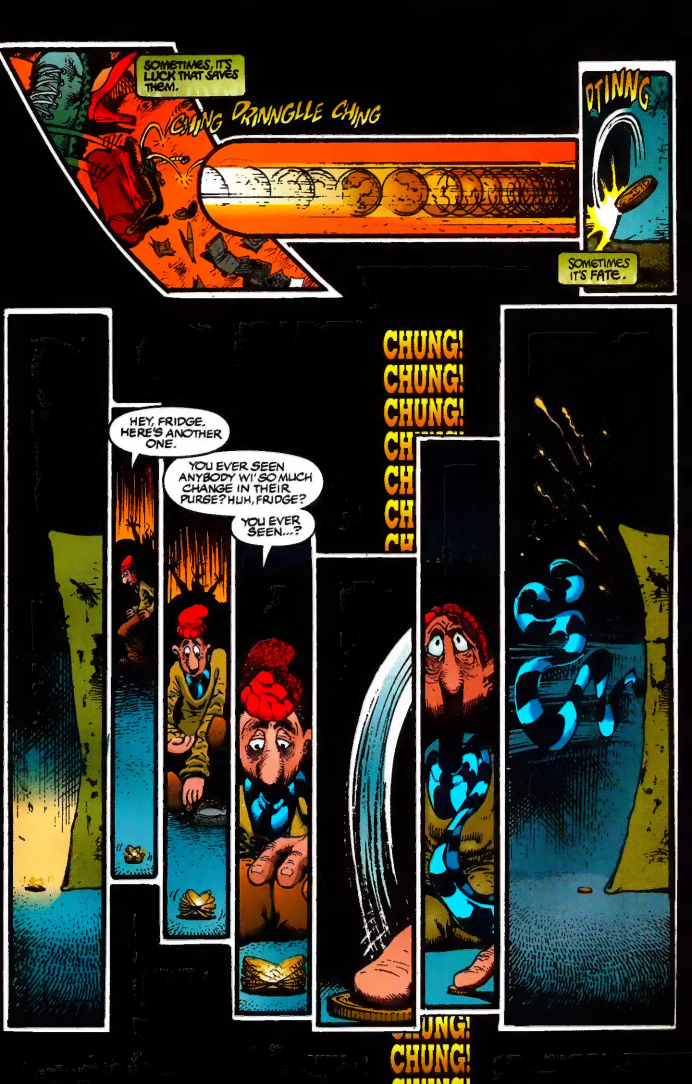
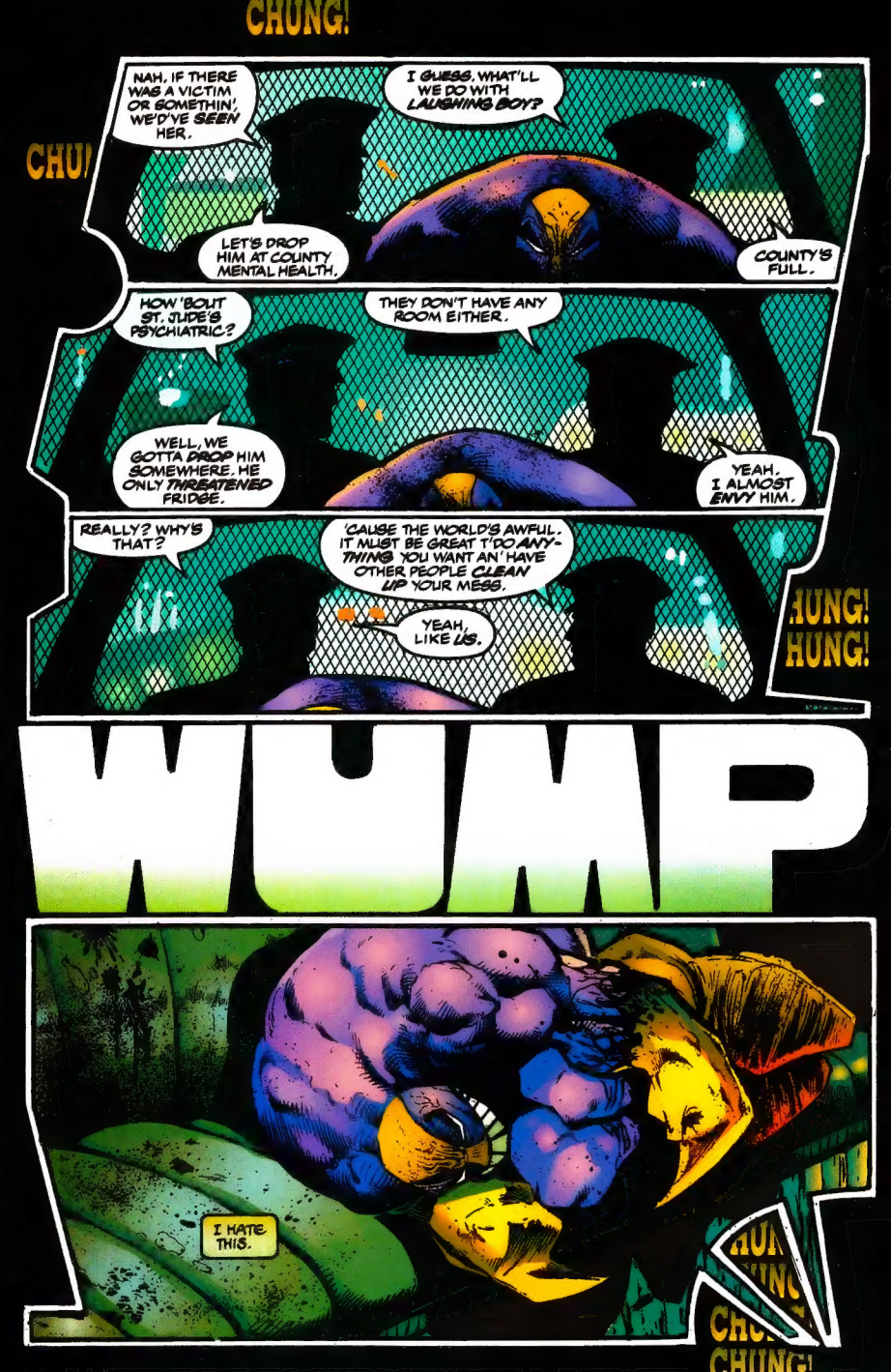
MAXX
IT'S WET.
DARK AND WET.
IT'S THE KIND OF WEATHER THAT PENETRATES. IT MAKES YOUR SKIN FEEL ITCHY AND OILY.
DIRTY, KIND OF, BUT REAL TOO... THAT'S GOOD.
IT'S TIME FOR CHEERS. SAM AND DIANE. NORM PETERSON. THE COACH. AND THEN, AFTER HE DIED, WOODY.
I DON'T HAVE A TV NOW, BUT THAT'S OKAY.
THE SHOWS IN MY MIND ARE ALMOST ALWAYS BETTER.
CHUNG!

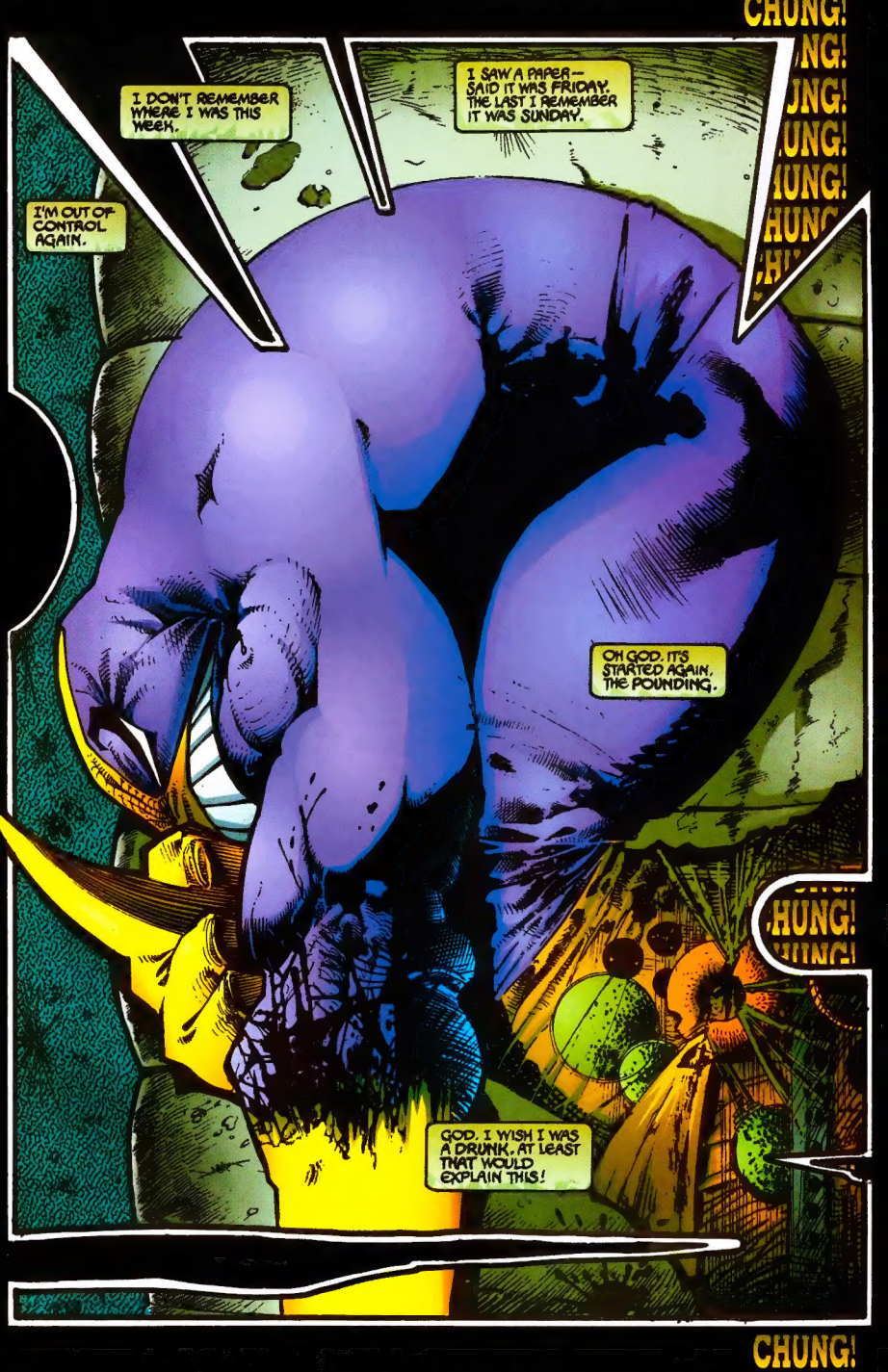

THE THEATER CROWD'S JUST ARRIVING.
LOOK IT.
YEAH. RENNY DELIVERS, DON'T HE?
IDIOT. DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HIS OWN STUPID BUSINESS.
THE SKINNY ONE'S TEEGO. THE BIG ONE'S FRIDGE.
THEY BEAT PEOPLE UP. TAKE THEIR MONEY. KILL THEM SOMETIMES.
THE CAB DRIVER GETS A THIRD.
I'M GOING TO MISS THE CURTAIN. IF HE DOESN'T KNOW THE CITY, I DON'T SEE HOW HE CAN GET A LICENSE!
THIS ISN'T THE JOLSON! WE'RE THREE BLOCKS...
OH, CRAP! NEVER MIND! I'LL WALK!
ONE WOMAN, THEY BEAT HER HEAD SO HARD AGAINST THE SIDEWALK, THEY CRACKED THE CONCRETE.
ANOTHER GOT AWAY BY RUNNING THREE BLOCKS ON A BROKEN FOOT.
SOMETIMES, THAT'S THE ONLY WAY PEOPLE GET SAVED. SUICIDAL BRAVERY.


SOMETIMES, IT'S LUCK THAT SAVES THEM.
CHING DRINGLLE CHING
PTINNG
SOMETIMES IT'S FATE.
CHUNG! CHUNG! CHUNG!
HEY, FRIDGE, HERE'S ANOTHER ONE.
YOU EVER SEEN ANYBODY W/ SO MUCH CHANGE IN THEIR PURSE? HUH, FRIDGE?
YOU EVER SEEN...?
CHUNG!
CHUNG!

WHA... WHO ARE YOU...?
HEY...! NO... NO!
AAEEEH!
YEAH. USUALLY, IT'S FATE...
Tchreckk
BUT, SOMETIMES, IT'S ME.

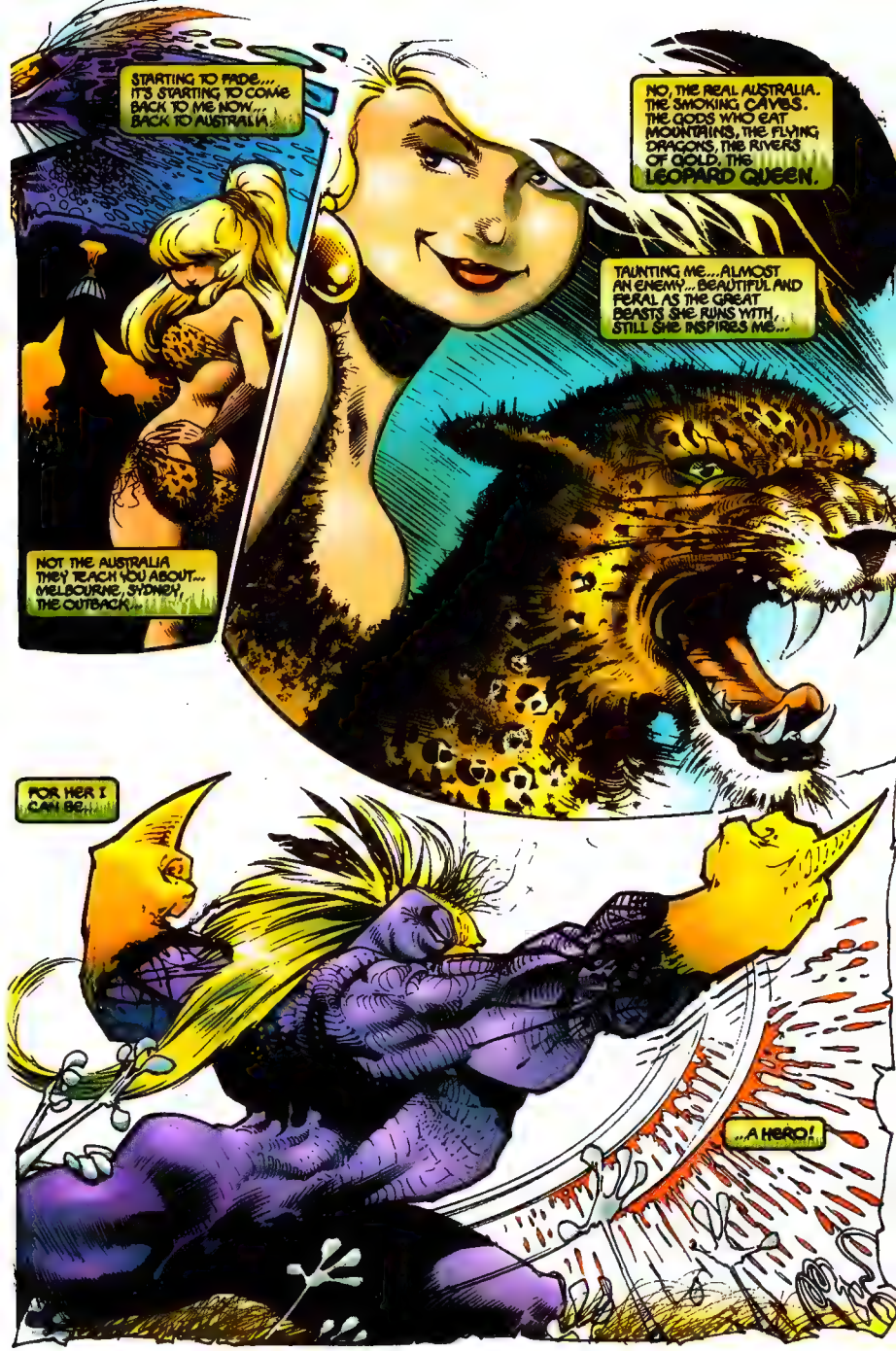
AND SOMETIMES IT'S US!
DAMN. I WAS TALKING OUT LOUD AGAIN.
OKAY, EVERYBODY FREEZE!
OH, GOD! FINALLY THE COPS! IS MY PURSE AROUND HERE SOME-PLACE?
THE POLICE ARE GONE.
THAT BUM IN THE MASK WAS TRYING TO HELP ME.
D'YOU THINK I SHOULD GIVE HIM SOME MONEY?
AFTER ALL, I COULD'VE BEEN RAPED AND MURDERED.
HEY, YOU'RE NOT...
NO. I'M NOT.
SAY, TODD. D'YOU REMEMBER A WOMAN BACK THERE...?

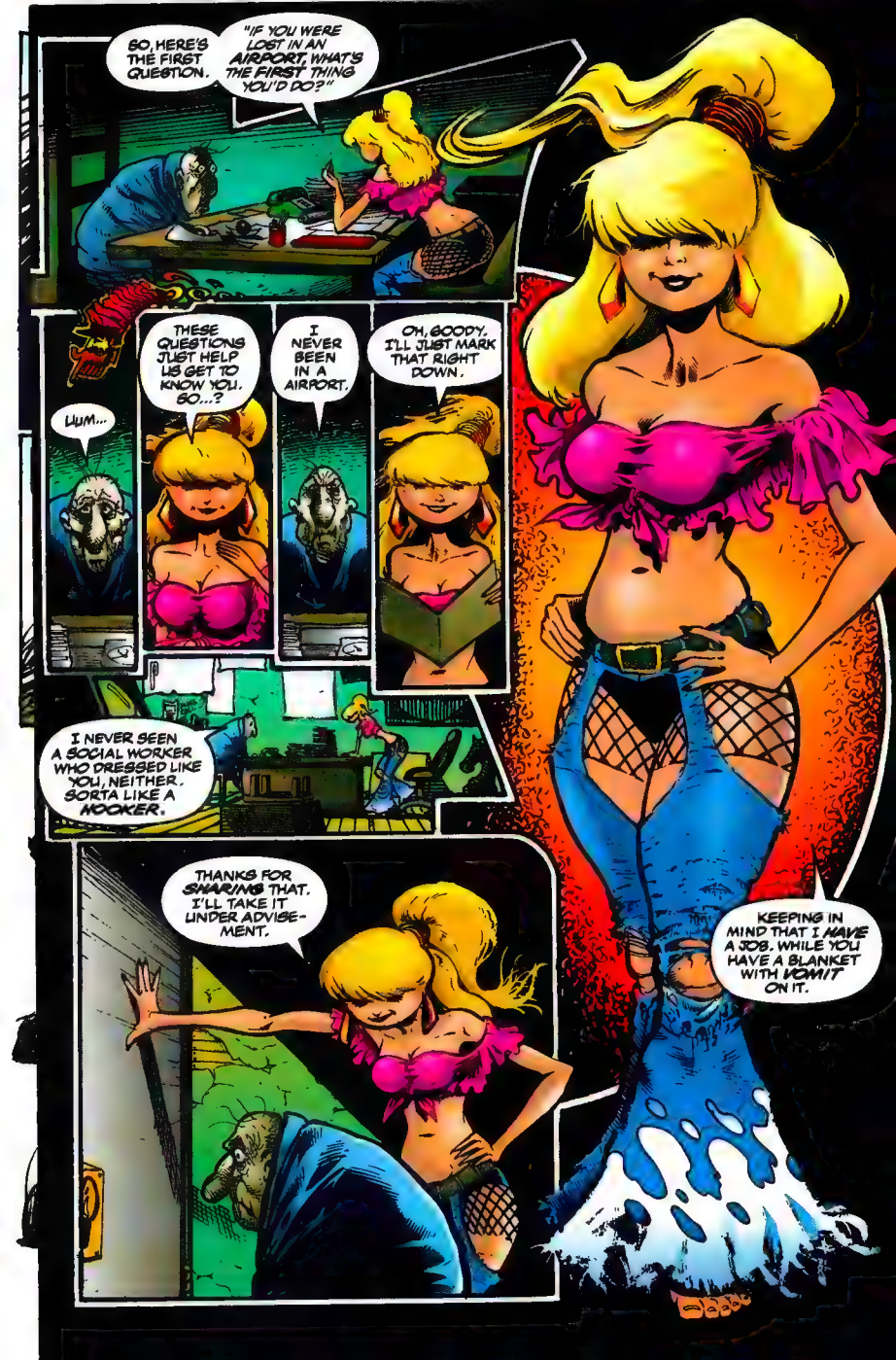

CHUNG!
CHU!
NAH. IF THERE WAS A VICTIM, OR SOMETHIN', WE'D'VE SEEN HER.
I GUESS, WHAT'LL WE DO WITH LAUGHING BOY?
LET'S DROP HIM AT COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH.
COUNTY'S FULL.
HOW 'BOUT ST. JUDE'S PSYCHIATRIC?
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY ROOM EITHER.
WELL, WE GOTTA DROP HIM SOMEWHERE. HE ONLY THREATENED FRIDGE.
YEAH, I ALMOST ENVY HIM.
REALLY? WHY'S THAT?
'CAUSE THE WORLD'S AWFUL. IT MUST BE GREAT T'DO ANYTHING YOU WANT AN' HAVE OTHER PEOPLE CLEAN UP YOUR MESS.
YEAH, LIKE US.
HUNG!
HUNG!
WUMP
I HATE THIS.
CHUNG!


CHUNG!
I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE I WAS THIS WEEK.
I SAW A PAPER— SAID IT WAS FRIDAY. THE LAST I REMEMBER IT WAS SUNDAY.
I'M OUT OF CONTROL AGAIN.
OH GOD. IT'S STARTED AGAIN. THE POUNDING.
CHUNG!
GOD. I WISH I WAS A DRUNK. AT LEAST THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THIS!
CHUNG!

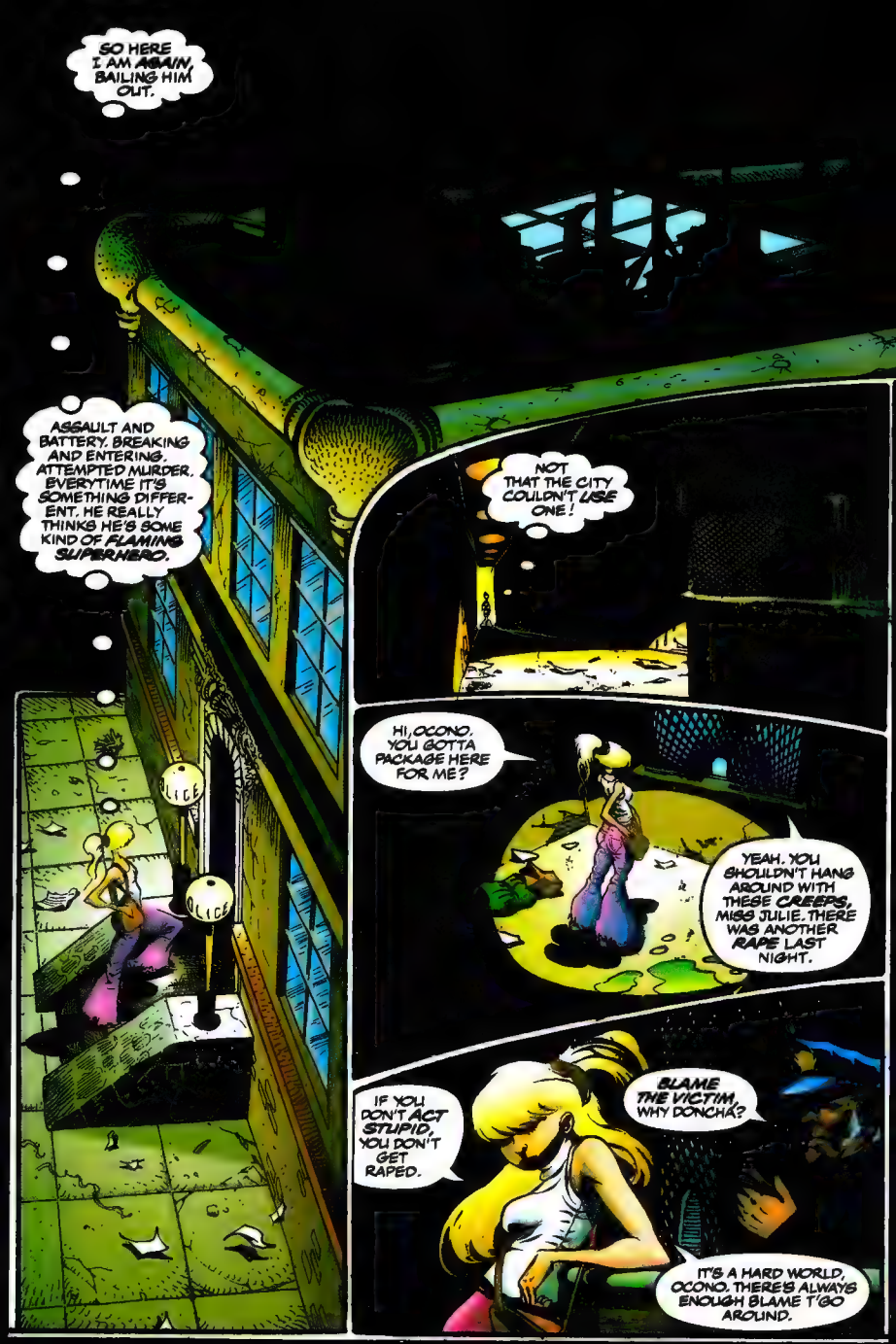
GREAT. WHERE THE HECK AM I NOW?

SO NOW WHAT?
WHAT THE HECK... LITTLE HANDS?
WHY ARE THESE HANDS SPROUTING AROUND ME?
EACH IS AS STRONG AS A MAN...
HUNGRY AS DEATH...
THEY WILL DRAG A MAN DOWN TO NOTHINGNESS...
TO OBLIVION!


STARTING TO FADE... IT'S STARTING TO COME BACK TO ME NOW... BACK TO AUSTRALIA.
NOT THE AUSTRALIA THEY TEACH YOU ABOUT... MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, THE OUTBACK...
NO, THE REAL AUSTRALIA. THE SMOKING CAVES. THE GODS WHO EAT MOUNTAINS, THE FLYING DRAGONS, THE RIVERS OF GOLD, THE LEOPARD QUEEN.
TAUNTING ME... ALMOST AN ENEMY?... BEAUTIFUL AND FERAL AS THE GREAT BEASTS SHE RUNS WITH, STILL SHE INSPIRES ME...
FOR HER I CAN BE...
...A HERO!

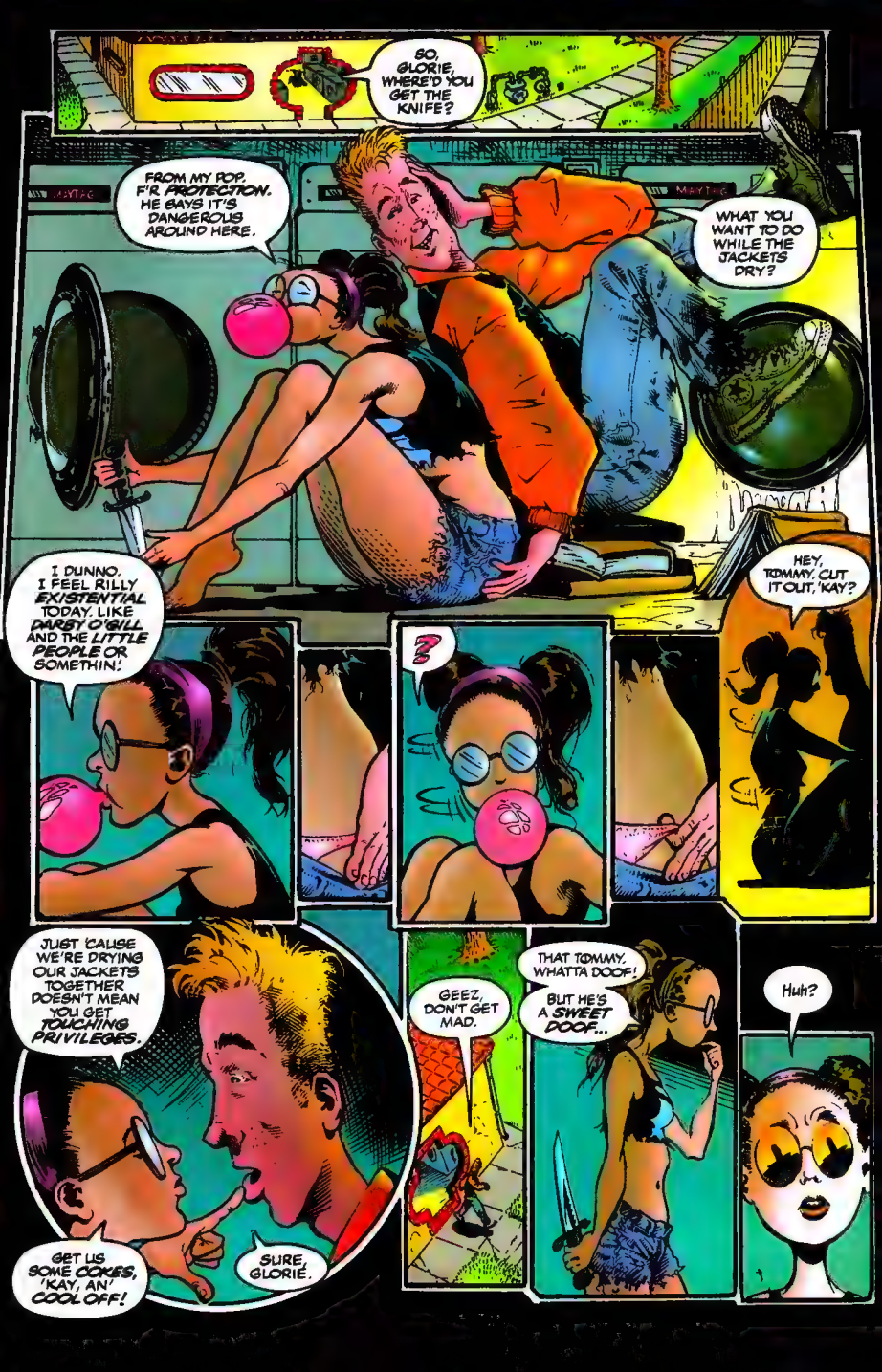

SO, HERE'S THE FIRST QUESTION.
"IF YOU WERE LOST IN AN AIRPORT, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU'D DO?"
HUM...
THESE QUESTIONS JUST HELP US GET TO KNOW YOU. SO...?
I NEVER BEEN IN A AIRPORT.
OH, GOODY. I'LL JUST MARK THAT RIGHT DOWN.
I NEVER SEEN A SOCIAL WORKER WHO DRESSED LIKE YOU, NEITHER. SORTA LIKE A HOOKER.
THANKS FOR SHARING THAT. I'LL TAKE IT UNDER ADVISE-MENT.
KEEPING IN MIND THAT I HAVE A JOB. WHILE YOU HAVE A BLANKET WITH VOMIT ON IT.

RRRIINNGG
HELLO, CITY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
I DID IT FOR YOU, JULIE. THE PAIN... THE SEX... IT WAS ALL FOR YOU...
PHONE CREEPS!
RRIIN
NOT AGAIN...!
LISTEN, FILTH...
OH, HELLO, SGT. OCONO.
YOU'VE GOT HIM AGAIN?
HOLD ON TO HIM. I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN.
YES, I KNOW HE GIVES YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE...
I KNOW YOU DON'T GET PAID NEARLY ENOUGH...
I'LL BRING THE USUAL. BYE.
:sigh: IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE GRAFT, CORRUPTION, AND VIOLENCE, THIS CITY WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN AT ALL.


SO HERE I AM AGAIN, BAILING HIM OUT.
ASSAULT AND BATTERY. BREAKING AND ENTERING. ATTEMPTED MURDER. EVERYTIME IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT. HE REALLY THINKS HE'S SOME KIND OF FLAMING SUPERHERO.
POLICE
POLICE
NOT THAT THE CITY COULDN'T USE ONE!
HI, OCONO. YOU GOTTA PACKAGE HERE FOR ME?
YEAH. YOU SHOULDN'T HANG AROUND WITH THESE CREEPS, MISS JULIE. THERE WAS ANOTHER RAPE LAST NIGHT.
IF YOU DON'T ACT STUPID, YOU DON'T GET RAPED.
BLAME THE VICTIM, WHY DONCHA?
IT'S A HARD WORLD, OCONO. THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH BLAME T'GO AROUND.

HEY, MAXX.
IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO BUY YOU OUTTA HERE. YOU ALMOST BIT OFF BAKER'S FINGER THIS TIME.
I DIDN'T DO IT.
WELL, HE JUST GOT TWELVE STITCHES TO HOLD HIS HAND TOGETHER.
IF IT WASN'T YOU, THEN WHO DID IT?
IT WAS THE MASK.
RIGHT.
I WARNED HIM NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE.
LET'S JUST DROP IT, OKAY?
YOU NEED SOME NEW CLOTHES, SOME FOOD AND A HOT BATH.
OKAY. BUT NO BUBBLES THIS TIME.

THEY COME OUT OF THE GROUND... PULLING ME DOWN...
I HAVE TO FIGHT BACK, OR BE DESTROYED!
THEN I WAKE UP. AS USUAL. IT WAS ALL A DREAM.
ALLEY OOP, SNOOKS. IT'S ALMOST NIGHT. THIS IS MY HOUSE. NOT A HOTEL.
I BOUGHT YOU A COAT AND HAT, SO YOU WON'T BE QUITE SO CONSPICUOUS.
NOT THAT BEING LARGE, VIOLENT, PURPLE AND YELLOW ISN'T A GOOD DISGUISE...


SO, GLORIE, WHERE'D YOU GET THE KNIFE?
FROM MY POP. F'R PROTECTION. HE SAYS IT'S DANGEROUS AROUND HERE.
WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WHILE THE JACKETS DRY?
I DUNNO. I FEEL RILLY EXISTENTIAL TODAY. LIKE DARBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE OR SOMETHIN!
?
HEY, TOMMY, CUT IT OUT, 'KAY?
JUST 'CAUSE WE'RE DRYING OUR JACKETS TOGETHER DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TOUCHING PRIVILEGES.
GET US SOME COKES, 'KAY, AN' COOL OFF!
SURE, GLORIE.
GEEZ, DON'T GET MAD.
THAT TOMMY. WHATTA DOOF!
BUT HE'S A SWEET DOOF...
Huh?

THE MACHINES BEGIN TO LEAK AND BELCH IN MY PRESENCE.
I CAN HEAR THE BEATING OF HER HEART.
WHO'S THERE...?
SHE IS LIKE A SMALL, DELICIOUS SLUG. I HAVE ONLY TO CLOSE MY HAND TO POSSESS HER.
CRAP.
HI, HONEY. I'M HOME.
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP
MEEP!
MEEP

GET AWAY!
NO. I DO NOT THINK YOU WILL.
I'LL CUT YOU!
GLORIE?
UUHH
"LISTEN, GLORIE. IF Y'R ALWAYS GONNA SEND ME OUT TO BUY COKES AN' BURGERS AN' STUFF, THEN WE'RE GOIN' STEADY!"
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'LL SAY.
"AN' IF WE'RE GOIN' STEADY THEN THAT MEANS..."
I HURT, TOMMY...
OH, GOD...
HE DID THINGS TO ME

TRY NOT TO GET INTO ANY FIGHTS, OKAY, MAXX?
THE WOMAN I SAVED YESTERDAY WAS RAPED AND MUTILATED. IT SAID SO ON THE NEWS. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE FANATIC! A FEW WOMEN WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEMBELVES GET MESSED WITH AND YOU RIDE TO THE RESCUE!
WHO ARE YOU TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR LIVES?
PAGLIA
I AM THE MAXX. ANSWER YOUR PHONE.
HULLO?
THE OTHERS CRY OUT FOR YOU, JULIE WINTERS! THEIR SCREAMS OF AGONY ARE THE KISSES THAT I PLACE ALONG YOUR NECK!
THAT'S...VERY INTERESTING. TELL ME MORE.
STUDY
CALL SAM
DOUBTLESS ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS TAPPED THIS LINE...
NO MATTER. I AM HAVING A...SERVANT OF MINE PLACE THIS CALL!

HEY, DON'T I KNOW THAT GUY?
AND WHAT'S HE DOING WITH TWO PHONES?!
AND WHY DOESN'T ANYONE ELSE NOTICE HE'S ONLY A FOOT AND A HALF HIGH?
EXIT
HE'S ONE OF THOSE UNDER-GROUND THINGS, FROM MY DREAM.
ONLY BLACK.
AND FASTER.
RATS. TOO NARROW.
BUT IT'S BLOWING HIM DOWN, TOO...
MAYBE ENOUGH FOR ME TO CUT AROUND...
AND NAB HIM!
NOW.
NOW SHOWING
EASY...
CRAP.
DIDN'T KNOW THEY COULD JUMP!
GOTCHA!
KYAHAHA
NOW WHAT DO I DO WITH HIM?
IMAGE
DON'T JUMP AT ME, YOU LITTLE...!
GONE.
DAMN.
BUT IF HE CAN BITE THROUGH STEEL...
...WHY IS HE RUNNING FROM--
CRAP!

I'LL...
SPLOARK
GREET!NGS, BR'ER LAPP!N.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
AMAZ!NG...
SALE
4.49%
4.29%
4.89%
FULL

YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT? NOT THE GIRL OR THE ISZ OR THE BLOODWORMS OR ME.
THEN IT WASN'T ALL A DREAM! UNLESS I WAS DREAMING NOW.
TOO BAD. I NORMALLY HATE KILLING AMNESIACS.
MEEP!
OH, GOD. NOW I REMEMBER ...!

IT WAS ALL COMING BACK TO ME. I COULD FEEL THE HOT SUN ON MY BACKSKIN AND THE GRASSES UNDER MY TOES.
THOSE LITTLE CREATURES WERE ISZ. BUT TWISTED AND CHANGED BY BEING MOVED TO THIS WORLD.
TRUE ENOUGH, TOO BAD YOU'LL BE EATEN BEFORE YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO MUTTER THIS TO ANYONE!
DAMN... STILL TALKING OUT LOUD!
NEXT MONTH
STAINED TEETH, DEADLY TEETH!

YOUR COOL IDEA GOES HERE!

O.K. here we go. You know the drill. Send in cool ideas for the name of the Maxx letter column to: Sam Kieth, 4363 Hazel Avenue, #1-285, Fair Oaks, California 95628. The winner will get 10, yes, 8-O.K....5, well, how about one glow-in-the-dark Maxx #1 and something else (which I haven't figured out yet).

I'd like to thank all the people that helped me put out this comic book on time. it wasn't easy.

I got three letters so far...

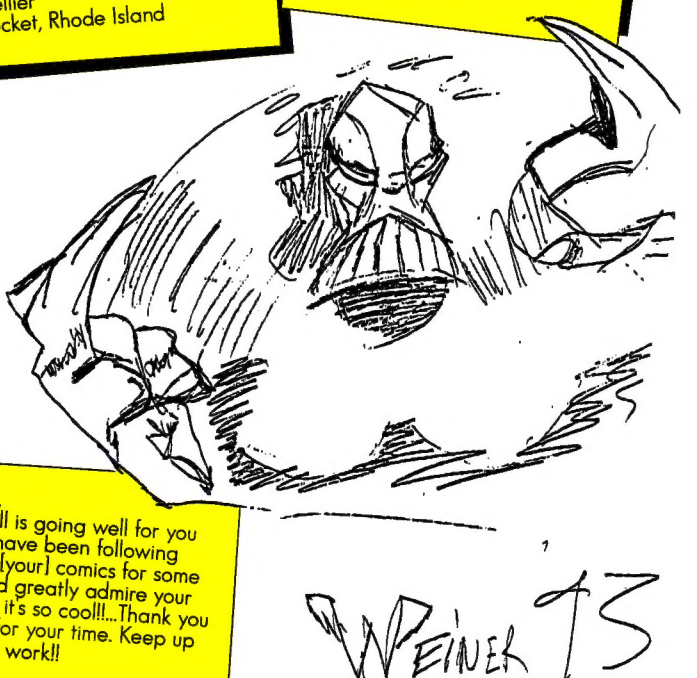
Dear Mr. Kieth,
I have been following your career since Incredible Hulk #368...I am anxiously awaiting The Maxx. I would like to wish you the best of luck in the future.

Sincerely,
Eddie Tellier
Woodsocket, Rhode Island

Dear Sam,
The Maxx has not come out yet near me, but I hear it's going to be really good. I love Gruesome Characters like that...

Jeff Weiner
Forest Hills, New York

Thanks for sending in the cool Maxx picture!!



Dear sir,
I hope all is going well for you today. I have been following many of [your] comics for some years and greatly admire your artwork- it's so cool!!...Thank you so much for your time. Keep up the great work!!

Sincerely,
Sue Kroner
Melbourne, Florida